

AN EXTENSION OF A TABLE OF ABSORPTION FOR ELSASSER BANDS*

D. Q. WARK AND M. WOLK

U.S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D.C.

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Elsasser [1] formulated the absorption by a band consisting of Lorentz-shaped lines equally spaced and of equal strengths. He found the mean absorption over a spectral interval D , the spacing between the lines, and through a homogeneous gas of path length u , to be

$$A = \sinh \beta \int_0^y \exp(-y \cosh \beta) J_0(iy) dy \quad (1)$$

where $\beta = 2\pi\alpha/D$

and $y = (Su)/(D \sinh \beta)$

in which α is the half width of the lines at half maximum and S is the strength (integrated absorption coefficient) of an individual line.

Kaplan [2] has shown that equation (1) may be represented by

$$A = \sinh \beta \exp(-y) \left[J_0(iy) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n y^n + i J_1(iy) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n y^n \right] \quad (2)$$

in which $a_1 = 1$

$$b_1 = -\beta / \sinh \beta, \quad \cosh \beta < 3$$

$$nb_{n+1} = b_n + a_n$$

$$na_n = a_{n-1} + b_{n-1} + (-1)^{n+1} c^{n-1} / (n-1)!$$

where $c = \cosh \beta - 1$

From this expansion Kaplan prepared a table of fractional absorption, in which β ranges from 0.01 to 1.0 and y from 0 to 40.

Radiative transfer problems arising in meteorology

require an extension of the table. In the present work, therefore, the series solution of Kaplan has been employed to carry the table to the limits normally encountered in the atmosphere. Calculations were performed for $\beta = 1.0, 0.1, 0.01$, and 0.001 . As many as 60 decimal places were required in the evaluation of the coefficients. Exponential functions of the desired accuracy were obtained from Van Orstrand's [3] tables.

The ranges of y were 0 to 150,000 or to the point where A became unity to four decimal places. For intermediate values of β , an interpolation scheme was devised to determine the difference between the correct values of A and the error function approximation,

$$A = \operatorname{erf}(\beta \sqrt{y/2}) \quad (3)$$

Table 1 shows the results of this work. The calculated values of A are exact to the accuracy shown. The interpolated values should be correct to within 0.0001 in most cases. All values of A lying outside this table, except for $\beta > 1.0$, can be calculated precisely to at least four decimal places from the error function approximation. Kaplan's table has been included as a part of table 1.

REFERENCES

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